

Exodus 20:2-14

Decalogue

Aseret HaD'varim

(New letters dark; Old letters hollow)

ב אֲנֹכִי {ה'} אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבְּיַת עַבְדִּים:

ג לֹא יִהְיֶה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל-פָּנָי:

ד לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל-תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת לָאָרֶץ:

ה לֹא תִשְׁפַּתְנֶנּוּ לַהֵם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל קַנָּאן פֹּקֵד עֲוֹן אָבֹת עַל-בָּנִים עַל-שְׁלֵשִׁים וְעַל-רִבְעִים לְשָׁנָאִי:

ו וְעֹשֶׂה תִסֹּד לְאֵלֵפִים לְאַהֲבִי וּלְשִׁמְרֵי מִצְוֹתַי:

ז לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת-שֵׁם-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשֹׁנָא כִּי לֹא יִנְקֶה יְהוָה אֶת אִשְׁרֵי-שְׂמֹנוֹ לְשֹׁנָא:

ח זְכוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ:

ט שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְעֹשֶׂיתְךָ כָּל-מְלֶאכֶתֶךָ:

י וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל-מְלָאכָה אַתָּה | וּבִנְךָ וּבִתְּךָ עַבְדְּךָ וְעַמְתְּךָ וּבַהֶמְלֶכֶתֶךָ וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

יא כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת-יָמִים עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ אֶת-הַיָּם וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-בָּם וַיִּנַּח בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל-פָּנָיו בְּבֹד יְהוָה אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת וַיְקַדְּשֶׁהָ:

יב כִּבְדֹד אֶת-אָבִיךָ וְאֶת-אִמְּךָ לְמַעַן יֵאָרְכוּ יָמֶיךָ עַל הַצִּדִּיקָה אֲשֶׁר-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ:

יג לֹא תִרְצַח לֹא תִנְאַף לֹא תִגְנוֹב לֹא תַעֲנֶנֶה בְּרַעַף עַד שִׁקְרָה:

יד לֹא תִחְמָד בֵּית רַעַף לֹא-תִחְמָד אִשְׁתֵּי רַעַף וְעַבְדְּךָ וְשׁוֹרְךָ וְחִמּוֹרְךָ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרַעַף:

This is the letter **KHAPH**: כ (כף)

It is the bleKHy sound your throat makes when it is glopped up with yuKHy stuff and your clear it. It is the same letter with a different shape than the Final KHaph.

It represents the number 20. It sounds like **KH**.

It is found towards the beginning of Exodus 20:2

אֲנֹכִי ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ

In Exodus 20:2 the KHAPH appears in the word אֲנֹכִי which means “I.”

Practice reading the letter KHAPH with all the vowels (notice that the largest letter is from Exodus 20:2):

כְּ כֵּ כוּ כֶּ כוֹ כִּי כֹּ כִי כֻּ כִי כֻּ <KHaph

Practice reading these Hebrew words with KHAPH (See if you can find the *starred words in the Exodus Decalogue):

*work / livelihood מְלָאכָה

for a blessing לְבָרָכָה

*all (of)/ every וְכֹל

This is the letter **TZadee**: צ (צָדִי)

It looks like a twisted pre**TZ**el tied in no**TS**. It is the shape that comes anywhere but the end of a word.

It represents the number 90. It sounds like **TZ** or **TS**.

It is found towards the end of Exodus 20:2 אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים:

In Exodus 20:2 the TZADEE appears first in the word הוֹצֵאתִיךָ which means “I brought you (singular) out.” The next word מֵאֶרֶץ has a FINAL TZADEE, and means “from the land of.” The next word מִצְרַיִם in the sentence also has a TZADEE, and means “Egypt.” Some scholars think that the word for Egypt comes from צָר which means “narrow.”

Practice reading the letter TZADEE with all the vowels (notice that the largest letters are from Exodus 20:2):

צָ צִ צוּ צְ צוּ צִ צִ צִ צִ צִ <TZadee

Practice reading these Hebrew words with TZADEE (See if you can find the *starred words in the Exodus Decalogue):

*my commandments מִצְוֹתַי *you will murder תִּרְצַח north צָפוֹן

This is the letter **SIN**: ש (שין)

It may look like a SHin, but the dot is on the left for this letter (the SHin dot is on the right). It is also a **S**ound that you make when **S**ound goes **SSSS** through your teeth. Remember that it is no **S**in to be a lefty. Since the dot is on the left, it represents the left part of the word **S**unshine.

It represents the number 300 (the same as SHin). It sounds like **S**.

It is found toward the beginning of Exodus 20:4

לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ

In Exodus 20:4 the SIN appears in the word תַּעֲשֶׂה which means “you will make” or “you will do.” In this phrase it is preceded by לֹא which negates the phrase to mean “you will not make or do.”

Practice reading the letter SIN with all the vowels (notice that the largest letter is from Exodus 20:4):

שִׁ שֵׁ שׁוּ שָׁ שׁוּ שֵׁ שִׁי שֵׁ שֵׁ שֵׁ <Sin

Practice reading these Hebrew words with SIN (See if you can find the *starred words in the Exodus Decalogue):

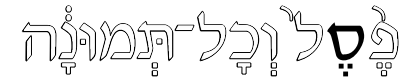
*and you will make / do וְעָשִׂיתָ *and makes / does וְעָשָׂה *he made / did עָשָׂה


This is the letter **SAMEKH**:  (סָמֶךְ)




It has a **C**ircular bottom. **S**ome **S**ee a **S**lice on the bottom right **S**ide.

It represents the number 60. It sounds like **S**.

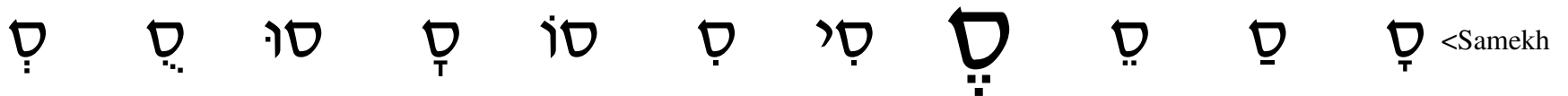
It is found towards the beginning of Exodus 20:4



In Exodus 20:4 the SAMEKH appears in the word  which means “sculpture” or “idol” or “statue.” Sometimes people

confuse the letter  with a  FINAL MEM, however the  SAMEKH is circular, and the FINAL MEM looks like a Marshmallow (more square -- without the slice taken out).

Practice reading the letter SAMEKH with all the vowels (notice that the largest letter is from Exodus 20:4):



Practice reading these Hebrew words with SAMEKH (None of these are in the Exodus Decalogue):



This is the letter **GIMMEL**: ג (גמל)

It has a **G**ap at the bottom. It **G**oes in the direction of the next letter. It usually has **G**ot a dot in it when it is found at the be**G**inning of syllables.

It represents the number 3. It sounds like **G**.

It is found towards the end of Exodus 20:10

וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעֲרֶיךָ׃

In Exodus 20:10 the GIMMEL appears in the word וְגֵרְךָ which means “and your foreigner” or “and your convert.”

Practice reading the letter GIMMEL with all the vowels (notice that the largest letter is from Exodus 20:10):

גְּ גֵּ גוֹ גָּ גוּ גֶּ גִּי גֶּ גֵּ גֶּ גָּ <Gimmel

Practice reading these Hebrew words with GIMMEL (See if you can find the *starred words in the Exodus Decalogue):

*you will steal תִּגְנוֹב

couple / pair זוג

also גם

This is the letter **PHEH SOFIT (Final PHeh)** : פֿ (פה סופית)

It looks like **F**angs in **F**ront, or the **F**ront teeth **F**inding the bottom lip, but the bottom **F**alls below the line. It represents the number 80. It sounds like **PH**. It is the shape that only comes at the end of the word.

We find it in Exodus 20:13

לֹא תִנְאַף

In Exodus 20:13 the PHEH SOFIT appears in the word תִּנְאַף which means “you will commit adultery.” Note that this word is preceded by the word לֹא which negates the verb, and the phrase becomes “you will not commit adultery.”

Practice reading the letter PHEH SOFIT with all the vowels (notice that the largest letter is from Exodus 20:13):

אֵף אִף אָף אֹף אַף אֵיף אִיף אֵיף אִיף אֵיף אִיף אֵיף /Final PHeh

Practice reading these Hebrew words with PHEH SOFIT (None of these are from the Exodus Decalogue):

fowl / bird עוף

nose / anger אף

end סוף